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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 THE HAGUE 001865

SIPDIS

OSD FOR DASD IAN BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/14/2013

TAGS: [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [ETRD](#) [IZ](#) [NL](#) [PREL](#) [NATO](#)

SUBJECT: A/S JONES VISIT TO THE HAGUE: MIDDLE EAST AND TRANSATLANTIC IS...

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SUBJECT: A/S JONES VISIT TO THE HAGUE: MIDDLE EAST AND TRANSATLANTIC ISSUES

Classified By: CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES DANNY R. RUSSEL FOR REAS
ONS 1.5 (B AND D)

(C) 1. In a visit to The Hague, July 15-16, A/S Jones met with senior officials from MFA, MoD, and MoJ, parliamentarians, the National Rapporteur for Trafficking, and with Mission personnel. This cable reports her discussions on foreign and economic policy. Trafficking in people, counter-narcotics, OSCE, and French-German security ideas are reported septels.

Transatlantic Relations and Iraq

(C) 2. MFA Deputy Political Director Schaper raised Iraq, noting that the Dutch would need a political voice once its troops were deployed. He referred to gaining a political voice as a warranted return on their offer of blood and treasure, and necessary domestically, particularly if something were to happen to their troops. The disadvantage of a coalition of the willing, compared to operations run by NATO, include lack of a clear political structure for contributors.

(C) 3. Schaper also noted the effect Iraq has had on the EU CFSP. The Dutch Government supports CFSP Chief Solana's call for increased European focus on terrorism and nonproliferation, and also agrees that Europe is not doing enough to modernize its defenses. While the Dutch government favors the development of CFSP, it sees no basis for a European foreign policy based on drawing distinctions between Europe and the U.S. A/S Jones said the U.S. considered the Iraq debate an intra-European rather than transatlantic dispute. She noted that in crafting UNSCR 1483, the U.S. sought to facilitate consensus on next steps in Iraq. She said Washington was keenly aware that European participation in stabilizing Iraq was essential. Schaper noted the Netherlands will be the fourth largest troop contributor to the stabilization force in Iraq and that as such, the Dutch Government is nervous about its involvement in the wider debate over the political process in Iraq. For the Dutch part, Schaper said Iraq illustrates the continuing relevance of multilateral institutions. The Netherlands favored NATO's new out-of-area role. Another example of this is that Foreign Minister de Hoop Scheffer supports a NATO role in an eventual Middle East peacekeeping effort. A/S Jones said the U.S. strongly supported NATO's new out-of-area role and that she would share with Washington colleagues the Dutch desire for enhanced consultations among troop contributing countries.

(C)4. In separate meetings with parliamentarians from Democrats-66 (D-66) and the Labor party (PvdA), A/S Jones refuted the notion that the U.S. is trying to divide Europe. On the contrary, she said, the U.S. wants to maximize

cooperation with the EU, including in Iraq, the Middle East, Africa and in combating terrorism and HIV. She cited recent achievements, including the U.S.-EU summit and the ESDP agreement that paved the way for the EU to lead the Macedonia mission. D-66 parliamentarian Bert Bakker, who chaired parliament's investigation into Srebrenica, said the deployment to Iraq is the first real test of procedures the Dutch put into place to avoid the sort of debacle that occurred in Srebrenica. He also commended UNSCR 1483, saying the U.S. had done a great job and that for most in parliament, including those opposed to the attack, the resolution turned the page.

The Balkans

(C) 5. Schaper observed that the process that had led to the EU's takeover of peacekeeping in Macedonia had gone well. He raised U.S. concerns about a possible transition of SFOR from NATO to the EU and asked if there were any link to the debate over Iraq. A/S Jones expressed U.S. satisfaction with the negotiations leading to the EU takeover in Macedonia. She stressed that U.S. reticence about an EU takeover of SFOR in Bosnia was not related to differences of opinion on Iraq; rather, it is too early for such a step. The U.S. has noted High Rep Ashdown's view that continuing law enforcement concerns, such as combating terrorism and organized crime, are being handled well by SFOR, and that until the EU police force is capable of managing these issues NATO should remain. MFA Security Policy Director agreed that a proper transition in Bosnia was important and asked what the future of the U.S. presence in Kosovo would look like. A/S Jones said the U.S. position remains in together out, together, and noted that force levels in the Balkans were a NATO decision.

MEPP

(C) 6. Michiel den Hond, MFA Director General for North Africa and the Middle East, said the Dutch Government appreciates recent progress on the peace process, thanks to President Bush's involvement. Schaper said that within the EU the Netherlands is seen as the most pro-Israel and, along with the UK and Germany, argues for a balanced approach within EU councils. A/S Jones stressed the importance of support for Abu Mazen -- if he is more credible, then Sharon can take more steps, and the EU must lend its support to him rather than Arafat. Curbing Hamas and Hezbollah's ability to disrupt the peace process is also important. Den Hond said the biggest help to Abu Mazen would be positive steps by PM Sharon.

Iran

(C) 7. Labor party defense spokesperson Timmermans described a recent trip to Iran with members of the Dutch parliament's foreign relations committee. He said Iran is especially interested in enhancing cooperation with the Dutch parliament because the Netherlands is the most critical of Iran within the EU. In reviewing his trip, Timmermans said the human rights situation is depressing. Parliamentarians committed to reform are powerless and expect the situation to get worse. Despite support in Tehran and among elites for reform, rural people tend to support the religious leaders. Timmermans saw a glimmer of hope in Iranian comments on the peace process. While the Iranians were not persuaded by the Dutch to actively support the peace process, they claimed that if (the road map) is what the Palestinians want, then we will not stop it. On terrorism, Iranian officials expressed interest in working with the U.S. on al-Qaeda but said other terrorist movements they support are actually liberation movements. They claimed willingness to address proliferation problems, as well. A/S Jones cited El Baradei's disappointing visit to Iran. Timmermans responded that the only way ahead is for Iran to build relations with the U.S. The EU can facilitate a dialogue with the U.S. but only a U.S.-Iranian relationship would lead to reform.

Trade Disputes

(U) 8. A discussion of trade disputes and their effect on relations revealed a divergence of views at the lunch hosted by MFA deputy Political Director Herman Schaper. The Dutch voiced their concern over the cases filed at the WTO. They said they don't want trade disputes to hurt relations, but the reality is that we are on a downward spiral. The EU is increasingly willing to retaliate. The EU has on hand a pre-approved list of U.S. products to target in response to any future trade row. To illustrate his point, Schaper asked his U.S. counterparts to imagine what would happen if the EU

placed sanctions on Florida oranges in an election year.

(U) 9. A/S Jones voiced confidence in dispute resolution mechanisms, and said she sees fewer problems than in the past. A/S Jones noted good U.S.-EU collaboration at the Doha Round and in preparations for Cancun, and highlighted the White House's commitment to making sure developing countries are not forgotten. The Dutch said they had high hopes for Cancun and agreed that this is a good potential area for U.S.-EU cooperation. In a separate meeting, Labor party MP Frans Timmermans expressed the urgency of a successful Doha round and of ensuring that developing countries get something out of it, too.

Other Issues

(SBU) 10. Schaper stressed the importance that the Netherlands attaches to multilateral institutions, though this will prove hollow if they do not produce results. He noted a renewed Dutch emphasis on bilateral relations, especially with new EU members, and with the the U.S. A/S Jones observed that the U.S. had sought to bring all issues of importance to multilateral institutions such as the UNSC, NATO, the OSCE and the WTO.

(U) 11. A/S Jones cleared this cable.
RUSSEL